

Table 3. Resources within 0.5-miles of the Study Area.

Primary #	Type	Description
P-15-013824	Structure	Historic Inyokern-Searles-McGen 115kV Transmission
P-15-014687	Site	Multicomponent; Lithic scatter and historic refuse
P-15-017203	Site	Multicomponent; Single flake and historic refuse
P-15-018980	Structure	Historic Lauritsen Road
P-15-019191	Structure	Historic Pilot Plant Road
P-15-019192	Structure; Site	Historic Refuse and road
P-15-019201	Structure; Site	Historic Refuse and Culverts
P-15-019215	Structure; Site	Historic Refuse and roads

A records search was also conducted at the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands Files by NAHC staff to determine whether sacred sites or tribal cultural resources are present within the study area (Confidential Appendix A). No such resources had been identified within the Project study area. Tribal organizations on the NAHC-provided list were contacted to determine whether additional information or concerns existing with respect to the proposed project. The Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi-Yokut Tribe responded stating they would be deferring to the Tejon Tribe for the Project.

Based on the records searches, the Richmond Elementary School Replacement Project study area appeared to have relatively low archaeological sensitivity.

4. METHODS AND RESULTS

The Richmond Elementary School Replacement Project study area is approximately 75-acre in size. Prior to survey, historical topographic maps were consulted to identify any potential historic resources located within the study area. The study area was then examined with the field crew walking parallel transects spaced at 15-m wide across the parcel, in order to identify surface artifacts, archaeological indicators (e.g., shellfish or animal bone), and/or archaeological deposits (e.g., organically enriched midden soil). Special attention was paid to rodent burrow back dirt piles, in the hope of identifying sub-surface soil conditions that might be indicative of archaeological features or remains. No cultural resources were collected during the survey.

The study area was surveyed in March 2020. The Project area is bisected by multiple dirt roads and has been previously disturbed. This area has been impacted by off-highway vehicle traffic and illegal trash dumping. Apartment complexes, commercial properties, and a parking lot border the southwest, south, and southeast edges of the Project. The Project abuts mostly undeveloped flat land. Soils throughout the study area are sandy-silty colluvium with very few lithic clasts. The Project APE accommodates stands of creosote bush and saltbush and a few Tamarisk trees. Vegetative cover was moderate and ground surface visibility overall can be considered good and adequate for Phase I coverage.

4.1 INVENTORY RESULTS

No cultural resources of any kind were identified during the intensive survey of the Richmond Elementary School Replacement Project study area.

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5. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An intensive Phase I archaeological survey/Class III inventory was conducted for the Richmond Elementary School Replacement Project, Ridgecrest, Kern County, California. A records search of site files and maps was conducted at the Southern San Joaquin Valley AIC and a search of the NAHC *Sacred Lands File* was completed. These investigations determined that no sites had been recorded within or near it. No Native American sacred sites or cultural landscapes had been identified within or immediately adjacent to the study area. Tribal contact letters and follow-up emails were sent out to the tribes listed by the NAHC and the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi-Yokuts responded on February 11th, 2020 stating that they would defer to the Tejon Tribe. No additional responses were received.

No cultural resources of any kind were identified as a result of the intensive field survey.

5.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

An archival records search, background studies, and an intensive, on-foot surface reconnaissance of Richmond Elementary School Replacement Project, Ridgecrest, Kern County, California, were conducted as part of a Phase I cultural resources survey/Class III inventory. No cultural resources were identified during the survey. The development of this property does not have the potential to result in adverse effects or impacts to historical properties or resources, and no additional archaeological work is recommended.

In the unlikely event that cultural resources are encountered during construction of the fence or during any other grading within the parcel, it is recommended that an archaeologist be contacted to evaluate the discovery.

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